

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 652

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to commend and celebrate the founding and opening of the Meharry Medical College Center for Women's Health Research.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly specially recognize those centers and programs that, through medical and professional services, improve the quality of life of minority and disadvantaged citizens of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable center is Meharry Medical College's Center for Women's Health Research; and

WHEREAS, the first scientific research center devoted solely to researching diseases that disproportionately affect women of color, the Center for Women's Health Research (CWHR) will provide comprehensive and multidisciplinary health care services with particular emphasis on minority and disadvantaged women; and

WHEREAS, the CWHR has been designed to consolidate research at Meharry Medical College on health issues that disproportionately affect women of color by providing a physical and administrative locus where scientists from many disciplines can come together to share insights and methods and deepen the understanding of the cellular, molecular, socio-behavioral, and clinical aspects of women's health; and

WHEREAS, the CWHR facility consists of a human cell biology lab, an endocrine assays core facility, a monitored exercise room, a radiological studies lab, a behavioral studies lab, faculty offices, a seminar room, and an exam room; and

WHEREAS, monetary awards from the National Center for Research Resources and the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities have provided an endowment which

will generate a stable source of funds to help support investigators in the areas of reproductive biology, cell, molecular and developmental biology, and HIV/AIDS research; and

WHEREAS, while the overall health of the nation has improved during the past two decades, disturbing disparities persist in the health care quality and disease rates of Tennessee's minority population when contrasted with the health care quality and disease rates of Tennessee's majority population; and

WHEREAS, African-American women have the highest mortality rate from breast cancer, colorectal cancer, and cervical cancer in America, and the AIDS rate for African-American women is almost twenty times higher than that of white women; and

WHEREAS, African-American women had a maternal mortality rate three times higher than that of white women in 2000; and

WHEREAS, minority women are two to three times more likely to have Type II Diabetes than are white women; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Women's Health Research seeks to eliminate these health disparities amongst women of color by providing premier healthcare services for women in an integrated and holistic manner, developing culturally sensitive models of health research and health care practice and conducting research designed to improve health care; and

WHEREAS, founder of the Center for Women's Health at Meharry Medical College, Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice serves as the CWHR Director, and Dr. Stella Nowicki serves as CWHR's Scientific Director; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body wishes to specially recognize and honor the professors, doctors, researchers, and organizers of Meharry Medical College's Center for Women's Health Research; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the organizers, faculty, professors, doctors, and researchers at the Meharry Medical College Center for Women's Health Research for their meritorious service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.